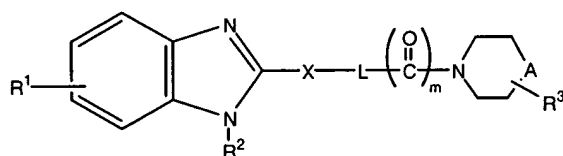


## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.**

A benzimidazole compound or a salt thereof which has an inhibitory action of ~~forming~~ foaming of macrophages and is useful as an active ingredient of a medicament for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of arteriosclerosis, which is represented by the formula (I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, or a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R<sup>3</sup> represents a functional group on the ring; A represents O or CH<sub>2</sub> or CH that forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1.